THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 18th DAY OF MAY 1797.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.

EDINBURGH:

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THE PRINCIPAL

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General Assembly

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CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 18th day of MAY 1797, and concluded the 29th day of the ſaid Month and Year.

I.

The KING's Commiſſion to DAVID Earl of LEVEN and MELVILLE produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 18. 1797.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National CHURCH being convened and conſtituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable DAVID EARL of LEVEN and MELVILLE, the KING's Commiſſion, ſealed with the ſeal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and uſed in *Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and conſtituting him his Majeſty's High

High Commiſſioner and Repreſentative in this Aſſembly; which Commiſſion was publicly read with all due honour and reſpect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Aſſembly;—the tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, Dei gratiâ, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defenſor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præſentes literæ noſtræ pervenerint, ſalutem. Quandoquidem Nos conſiderantes, quod Generalis Eccleſiæ Scotiæ Conventus in decimum octavum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Noſque abundè cupidi, et neceſſarium eſſe judicantes in commodum dictæ eccleſiæ, ut idem eccleſiæ generalis conventus die ſtatuto debitè obſervetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui perſonaliter intereſſe nequimus; Noſque abundè ſatisfacti de ſufficientia et fidelitate fideliſſimi et prædilectiſſimi Noſtri conſanguinei Davidis Comitis de Leven et Melville, *quod ad ſummum munus Noſtri ſupremi Commiſſionarii ad dictum generalem conventum ritè exercendum et obeundum uſquequaque ſit inſtructus: Noveritis igitur, Nos nominaſſe, conſtituiſſe, et ordinaſſe, tenoreque præſentium, nominare, conſtituere, et ordinare, memoratum fideliſſimum et prædilectiſſimum Noſtrum conſanguineum* Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melville, *ſupremum Noſtrum Commiſſionarium dicto generali eccleſiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam poteſtatem, commiſſionem, et warrantum, ſacram Noſtram Perſonam et auctoritatem regalem repræſentandi, nec non preſentiam Noſtram ſupplendi, et locum Noſtrum in dicto ſubſequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commiſſionario Noſtro ad hunc effectum ſpecialiter conſtituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commiſſionarii pro generali eccleſiæ conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque liberè in quovis reſpectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem ſummo munere fecerat, ſeu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac ſi Nos ipſi perſonaliter præſentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et ſingula quæ dictus* David Comes de Leven et Melville, *in hac Noſtra Commiſſione proſequenda legitimè fecerit, ſeu fieri ordinaverit, Nos firmiter approbamus et ratificamus. Inſuper omnibus et ſingulis dicti conventus et eccleſiæ paſtoribus et preſbyteris, cæteriſque quibuſcunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ* Scotiam *vocatam, ſubditis Noſtris, cujuſcunque gradus ſeu qualitatis, ut dictum* Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melville, *tanquam ſupremum Noſtrum Commiſſionarium, quoad effectum et modum ſupra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoſcant et audient, ſtrictè mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc Noſtram Commiſſionem à dicto decimo octavo die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durante ſubſequente*

ſequente ſeſſione dicti generalis conventûs in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel uſque dum à Nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei teſtimonium, preſentibus ſigillum Noſtrum per Unionis tractatum cuſtodiend. et in Scotiâ vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejuſdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam Noſtram apud St James's, *vigeſimo die menſis Aprilis, anno Domini milleſimo ſeptingenteſimo et nonageſimo ſeptimo, Regnique Noſtri anno trigeſimo ſeptimo.*

Per ſignaturam manu S. D. N. Regis ſupraſcriptam.

II.

The KING's moſt gracious Letter to the General Aſſembly, preſented to them by his Majeſty's Commiſſioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well.—Impreſſed with the ſtrongeſt ſenſe of the many and important benefits which Our Subjects have, for ſo long a courſe of years, derived from the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, it is with peculiar ſatisfaction that we embrace this opportunity of renewing to you the favourable teſtimonies which we have ſo often borne to the uprightneſs of your proceedings. The firm and ſteady zeal which you have invariably manifeſted for the intereſts of Religion and Virtue, the Wiſdom with which your proceedings have been always directed, and your conſtant Loyalty and Attachment to Our Perſon and Government, whilſt they demand Our moſt hearty acknowledgments, cannot fail of inſuring to you the continuance of Our favour and protection.

We have again conſtituted and appointed Our Right Truſty and Right Well-beloved Couſin, DAVID EARL of LEVEN and MELVILLE, to be Our Commiſſioner to repreſent Our Perſon and Royal Authority in the preſent

Aſſembly, being fully aſſured, that the eminent qualifications which have recommended him to Our repeated choice will continue to make him acceptable to you in the execution of the high and important truſt committed to his charge.

We feel Ourſelves called upon to recommend to you, in the moſt ſerious and earneſt manner, an unremitted attention to the great objects for which you are aſſembled; and that you will exert every means, that your zeal and your wiſdom can ſuggeſt, of checking the growth of impiety and vice, and of inculcating in the minds of Our Subjects thoſe principles of piety towards God, and of obedience to the laws, which are eſſentially neceſſary to their happineſs and proſperity.

Not doubting but that you feel with Us the high importance of theſe truſts committed to you, and of their inſeparable connection with the welfare of the Church you repreſent, We aſſure you of Our fixed determination to maintain it, as by law eſtabliſhed, in the full and free enjoyment of all its rights and privileges. And ſo We bid you heartily fareweel.—Given at Our Court at St James's, the 13th day of May 1797, in the thirty-ſeventh year of Our Reign.

By His Majeſty's Command,

PORTLAND.

Addreſſed thus:—*To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved, the Moderator, Miniſters and Elders of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.*

III.

The General Aſſembly's Anſwer to the KING's moſt gracious Letter.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

THE gracious letter with which Your Majeſty hath been pleaſed to honour this meeting of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with

with the reſpect and gratitude due to ſo diſtinguiſhed a mark of Your Royal favour.

The ſtrong ſenſe which Your Majeſty condeſcends to expreſs of the benefits derived by our fellow ſubjects from the ſucceſſive meetings of our General Aſſembly, Your Majeſty's renewed teſtimony to the uprightneſs and wiſdom of our proceedings, and the aſſurance of Your Majeſty's continued favour and protection, afford us very powerful motives to perſevere in our exertions for the intereſts of Religion and Virtue, and in the moſt affectionate loyalty to Your Majeſty's ſacred Perſon and Government.

The warm attachment of the Earl of Leven and Melville to the intereſts of Religion and good government, his affectionate regard to the Church of Scotland, his amiable character and exemplary conduct in private life, with the many eminent qualifications for the high and important truſt which have recommended him to Your Majeſty's repeated choice as the Repreſentative of Your Royal Perſon, render the re-appointment of him ſo acceptable to us, that we receive it as a peculiar mark of Your Royal favour to this Aſſembly.

Your Majeſty's Royal Donation for the propagation of Chriſtian Knowledge, and of the principles of the reformed Religion in the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, we, with all thankfulneſs, receive as a continued proof of Your Majeſty's paternal attention to the beſt intereſts of Your Subjects; and it ſhall be our endeavour to apply it with wiſdom and fidelity, in promoting the valuable and pious purpoſe for which it is deſigned.

Deeply impreſſed with Your Majeſty's ſerious and earneſt recommendation, and ſenſible how much the proſperity and happineſs of the people under our care depend on their devout regard to Almighty GOD, and their ſtrict obedience to the laws and eſtabliſhed authorities of their country, we ſhall beſtow an unremitted attention on the great objects for which we are aſſembled, and ſhall diligently apply every means in our power for checking the growth of impiety and vice, and for cheriſhing and ſtrengthening the principles of Religion and good order.

Always mindful of the importance of the truſts committed to us, and of the intimate connection betwixt our faithful diſcharge of theſe truſts, and the beſt intereſts of the Church which we repreſent, we ſhall ſtudy to deſerve Your Majeſty's approbation; and we rely with entire confidence on Your Royal determination to maintain the Church of Scotland, as by law eſtabliſhed,

in

in the full and free enjoyment of all its rights and privileges.

That Almighty GOD, the Father of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST, may protect Your Royal Perſon, direct Your Councils, prolong Your days, and proſper Your Adminiſtration; that the Divine favour may ever attend Your Royal CONSORT, the PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES, and all the Royal family; and that, after reigning long on earth with wiſdom and felicity, over a free, loyal and happy people, You may aſcend to thoſe realms where pious and virtuous Princes inherit an unfading Crown,—are the earneſt Prayers of,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,

Moſt obedient,

And moſt loyal Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in this General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our preſence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, *May* 20. 1797.

JOHN ADAMSON, *Moderator.*

IV.

IV.

ADDRESS to His MAJESTY on the Marriage of Her Royal Highneſs the PRINCESS ROYAL with His Serene Highneſs the Hereditary PRINCE of WIRTEMBERG.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

WE, Your Majeſty's moſt faithful and loyal ſubjects, the Miniſters and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Aſſembly, beg leave to approach Your Throne with our moſt reſpectful congratulations on the marriage of Her Royal Higneſs the PRINCESS ROYAL of Great Britain, Your Majeſty's eldeſt daughter, with His Serene Higneſs the Hereditary PRINCE of WIRTEMBERG STUTGARD.

While we ſincerely rejoice in every event that may increaſe Your Majeſty's domeſtic comfort, and enlarge the ſphere of Your paternal affections, we regard every extention of Your Royal family as an additional ſecurity to our Religion and liberties.

In the preſent ſituation of public affairs, ſo deeply intereſting to the Britiſh empire, we feel it to be our duty to renew the warmeſt expreſſions of our ſteady and zealous attachment to Your Majeſty's ſacred Perſon, and to that conſtitution which was eſtabliſhed by the wiſdom and virtue of our forefathers, has been improved under Your Royal anceſtors, and is ſo happily adminiſtered by Your Majeſty, for the ſecurity of thoſe laws, which give equal protection to all Your ſubjects, and for the advancement of national proſperity. We have the ſatisfaction of aſſuring Your Majeſty, that the great body of the people under our care concur with us in the ſame ſentiments of loyalty, and in the ſame

reverence for the laws and inſtitutions of our country; and that there is no abatement of that ſpirit, which has produced ſo many voluntary and generous exertions for the preſervation of internal order, for the defence of thoſe realms againſt the ſecret machinations and open violence of foreign enemies, and for the ſupport of national honour. They continue to feel and to act as becomes Britons, ready to ſacrifice every private conſideration in behalf of their beloved Sovereign, of the independence of their country, and of their Religion and liberties.

While our people patiently and cheerfully endure the inevitable toils and burdens of a war, they join with us in cheriſhing the pleaſing hope of peace, when peace can be obtained on terms fair and honourable, ſuch as will give full ſecurity for the many bleſſings by which Your Majeſty's ſubjects are diſtinguiſhed. For the attainment of which moſt deſirable object, we rely, under GOD, with the moſt entire confidence on the wiſdom and vigour of Your Majeſty's Councils.

That Almighty GOD, whoſe Providence rules the nations, and determines the iſſues of war, may, by the means which He hath choſen, and at his appointed time, turn the hearts of our enemies; that he may diffuſe a ſpirit of union and loyalty among all Your Majeſty's ſubjects; that he may proſper the meaſures of Government, and may continue to bleſs the Britiſh empire, under the light of His countenance; and that Your Majeſty may long reign over a free, happy, and affectionate people,—are the earneſt prayers of,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt dutiful,

Moſt faithful, and moſt obedient Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in this General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our preſence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, *May* 24. 1797.

JOHN ADAMSON, *Moderator.*

V.

Edinburgh, May 26. 1797. *Seſſ.* 8.

The General Aſſembly Re-enact and Re-tranſmit the following Regulations and Overture, enjoining ſuch Preſbyteries as have ſent no returns to ſend up their opinions to next Aſſembly: And upon the motion of a Member, the Aſſembly unanimouſly recommend to the Preſbyteries of this Church, that, when they are to take into conſideration any Overture tranſmitted to them by the General Aſſembly, they ſhall, at a previous ordinary meeting of Preſbytery, appoint the particular day, on which they are to conſider ſuch Overture.

Regulations and Overture reſpecting the Erection of Chapels of Eaſe.

Edinburgh, May 26. 1796. *Seſſ.* 7.

THE General Aſſembly, judging it expedient, that no Chapel of Eaſe ſhould be erected without the knowledge and approbation of the General Aſſembly, unanimouſly did, and hereby do ordain, That, in future, if any Petition ſhall be laid before any Preſbytery of this Church, for the erection of a Chapel of Eaſe, the ſaid Preſbytery ſhall ſtrictly obſerve the following regulations:

" That, in future, when a Petition ſhall be laid be-
" fore any Preſbytery of this Church, for the Erection
" of a Chapel of Eaſe, it ſhall lie upon the table till
" their next ordinary meeting; and at that meeting,
" unleſs it ſhall appear to the Preſbytery, from the cir-
" cumſtances in which the Petition is offered, that the
" Erection of the ſaid Chapel of Eaſe is unneceſſary and
" inexpedient, they ſhall cite the Miniſter and Kirk-Ses-
" ſion of the Pariſh, within which the Chapel is intend-
" ed; and ſhall ſummon, by edictal citation, the Heri-
" tors of the Pariſh, and, if there is a Burgh in the Pa-
" riſh, the Magiſtrates of that Burgh, to attend the
" next Meeting of Preſbytery, and to appear for their
" intereſt, in the ſubject of the Petition, if they ſhall
" ſee

" ſee cauſe:—That ſuch Preſbytery, after having heard " the parties, ſhall ſufficiently aſcertain the circum- " ſtances on which the Petition is founded;—the facts " ſtated as reaſons for the neceſſity or expediency of " the Chapel intended;—the general plan of the Cha- " pel itſelf;—the eſtimate of the expence to be incur- " red in completing it;—the ſcheme laid down for diſ- " charging the debts, which it may be neceſſary to con- " tract;—the plan on which it is propoſed to diſpoſe of " the collections to be made at the Chapel;—the names " and deſignations of the perſons in whom the pro- " perty is to be veſted;—the mode propoſed for the " election of the Miniſter;—the ſtipend to be provided " to him;—and the ſecurity offered for the regular " payment of the ſtipend:—That ſuch Preſbytery ſhall " thereafter report the whole above-mentioned circum- " ſtances of the caſe, from their minutes, to the next " Meeting of the General Aſſembly; and ſhall not pro- " nounce any final judgment on the petition, till they " ſhall have received the ſpecial directions of the Aſ- " ſembly thereon; and that it ſhall be competent for " the petitioners, and for all parties having intereſt, to " be heard on the ſubject at the bar of the Aſſembly."

——And at the ſame time the Aſſembly tranſmit to the Preſbyteries of this Church the ſaid Regulations, as an OVERTURE on which they are required to ſend up their opinions to the next Aſſembly. And the General Aſſembly ordain that ſeparate copies of this Order and Overture be printed, and tranſmitted to the different Preſbyteries.

VI.

COMMISSION of the General Aſſembly, to certain Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for diſcuſſing affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, May 27. 1797. *Seſſ.* 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate, commiſſion and appoint, the Reverend Dr JOHN ADAMSON, firſt Miniſter of St Andrew's their Moderator:

Moderator: And,—From the *Preſbytery* of *Abertarph*, Mr Alexander Fraſer at Kilmalie, Mr Thomas Roſs at Kilmanivaig, *Miniſters*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Sky*, Mr Martin Macpherſon at Slate, Mr William Bethune at Duirniſh, *Miniſters*; The Right Honourable Lord Macdonald, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Uiſt*, Dr John Macleod at Harris, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Barra, *Miniſters*; Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Eſq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lochcarron*, Mr John Macrae at Glenſhiell, Mr Colin Maciver at Glenelg, *Miniſters*; Bailie Daniel Millar, Canongate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dornoch*, Mr George Macculloch at Loth, Mr Alexander Sage at Kildonan, *Miniſters*; Robert Bruce Æneas Macleod of Cadboll, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Tongue*, Mr John Thompſon at Diurneſs, Mr James Dingwall at Farr, *Miniſters*; Mr William Maclean, merchant, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Caithneſs*, Mr Patrick Nicolſon at Thurſo, Mr William Smith at Bower, *Miniſters*; Mr Alexander Mackenzie *junior*, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kirkwall*, Mr William Anderſon at Evie and Rendall, Mr Robert Yule at Kirkwall, *Miniſters*; Mr Alexander Youngſon, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkwall*; Malcolm Laing, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Cairſtone*, Mr Francis Liddell at Orphir, Mr John Malcolm at Firth and Stenneſs, *Miniſters*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *North Iſles*, Mr George Barry at Shappinſhaw, Mr Walter Traill at Lady Pariſh in Sanday, *Miniſters*; John Grieve, Eſq; one of the Commiſſioners of Exciſe, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Zetland*, Mr David Thompſon at Walls, Mr John Menzies at Breſſay, *Miniſters*; Profeſſor Andrew Dalzel, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Edinburgh*, Dr Henry Grieve, Dr Andrew Hunter, Dr William Greenfield, Dr George Baird, Mr James Oliver at Corſtorphin, Mr James Dick at Currie, *Miniſters*; Charles Kerr, Eſq; Eldeſt Bailie of the city of Edinburgh, Donald Smith, Eſq; banker in Edinburgh, Mr John Newton of Curriehill, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Edinburgh*, The Right Honourable Thomas Elder, Lord Provoſt of the city, Mr Francis Braidwood, Convener of the Trades:—From the *Univerſity* of *Edinburgh*, Mr James Finlayſon, Profeſſor of Logic in ſaid Univerſity:—From the *Church* of *Camp-*

vere, Mr James Likly, Miniſter at Campvere, Robert Allan, Eſq; banker, Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Linlithgow*, Mr John Bertram at Muiravenſide, Mr James Dobie at Linlithgow, Mr James Wilſon at Falkirk, Mr David Ure at Uphall, *Miniſters*; David Dundas of Duddingſtone, Eſq; Mr John Dunlop, Collector of the Cuſtoms, Borrowſtounneſs, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Queensferry*, James Hopkirk, Eſq; merchant in Glaſgow:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Biggar*, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, Mr Bryce Little at Covington, Mr William Watſon at Biggar, *Miniſters*; John Dickſon, Eſq; of Culter, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Peebles*, Mr Charles Findlater at Newlands, Mr Andrew Handyſide at Lyne, *Miniſters*; James Montgomery, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Peebles*, Thomas Granſtoun, Eſq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dalkeith*, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Invereſk, Mr Alexander Colvill at Ormiſton, Mr James Goldie at Temple, *Miniſters*; The Right Honourable the Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Haddington*, Mr Andrew Johnſtone at Salton, Mr Peter Primroſe at Preſtonpans, Mr John Steele at Morham, *Miniſters*; The Moſt Noble George Marquis of Tweeddale, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Haddington*, William Law of Elvingſtone, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Burgh* of *North Berwick*, James Dalrymple, Eſq; chief Magiſtrate of the ſaid burgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunbar*, Mr John Martin at Spott, Mr Daniel Macqueen at Preſtonkirk, *Miniſters*; John Anderſon, Eſq; of Windygoul, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunſe*, Mr Selby Ord at Longformacus, Mr Alexander Girvan at Langton, *Miniſters*; Mathew Sandilands, Eſq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Churnſide*, Mr George Todd at Eyemouth, Mr John Haſtie at Edrom, *Miniſters*; George Buchan of Kello, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kelſo*, Mr Gavin Wallace at Nenthorn, Mr Cornelius Lundie at Kelſo, *Miniſters*; Sir James Pringle of Stitchell, Bart. *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Jedburgh*, Dr Thomas Somerville at Jedburgh, Mr William Brown at Bedrule, Mr David Brown at Crailing, *Miniſters*; Mr Thomas Uſher at Crawhill, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lauder*, Dr James Ford at Lauder, Mr Thomas Cleghorn at Smalholm, *Miniſters*; Colonel John Pringle of Georgefield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lauder*, The Right Hon. James Earl of Lauderdale:—From

the

the *Preſbytery* of *Selkirk*, Mr James Hay at Roberton, Mr John Scade at St Bothwells, *Miniſters;* Mark Pringle, Eſq; of Clifton, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Selkirk*, Mr Alexander Cunningham, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Annan*, Mr William Hardie Moncrief at Annan, Mr Abraham Niviſon at Middlebie, *Miniſters;* Joſeph Norris, Eſq; of Newfield, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Annan*, Charles Hope, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Langholm*, Mr John Laurie at Ewis, Mr James Arkle at Caſtletoun, *Miniſters;* Mr James Robertſon, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lochmaben*, Mr David Dickſon at St Mungo, Mr William Singer at Wamphry, Dr Andrew Brown at Lochmaben, *Miniſters;* Mr William Tait, Advocate, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Lochmaben*, Mr William Johnſton, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Penpont*, Mr William Rankine at Sanquhar, Mr John Yorſtoun at Morton, *Miniſters;* Mr Robert Edgar in Kirkland of Morton, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dumfries*, Mr George Duncan at Lochrutton, Dr Bryce Johnſtone at Holywood, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick Durham, *Miniſters;* Thomas Crichton, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kirkcudbright*, Dr Robert Muter at Kirkcudbright, Mr Robert Gordon at Carsfairn, Mr George Maxwell at Buittle, *Miniſters;* James Gordon, younger of Culvenan, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *New Galloway*, Mr Robert Heron, Preacher of the Goſpel:—From the *Burgh* of *Wigton*, Mr John Jeffray, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Burgh* of *Whitborn*, John Buſhby, Eſq; Sheriff-clerk of Dumfries:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Stranraer*, Mr Peter Ferguſon at Inch, Dr Anthony Stewart at Newluce, *Miniſters;* Thomas Adair, Eſq; of Genoch, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Stranraer*, Thomas Smith, Eſq; one of the principal clerks to the bills:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Ayr*, Mr John Ramſay at Kirkmichael, Mr George Gordon at Sorn, Mr William Crawford at Straiton, Mr William Ritchie at Tarbolton, Mr William Reid at New Cumnock, *Miniſters;* Lord Glenlee, Thomas Kennedy, Eſq; of Dunure, *Ruling Elders:*—From the *Burgh* of *Ayr*, George Fergusſon, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Irvine*, Dr James Woodrow at Stevenſtoun, Dr George Laurie at Loudon, Mr John Robertſon at Kilmarnock, *Miniſters;* The Honourable Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, *Ruling Elder:*—

From

From the *Burgh* of *Irvine*, David Boyle, Eſq; Advocate: —From the *Preſbytery* of *Paiſley*, Mr John Forreſt at Port-Glaſgow, Mr Thomas Burns at Renfrew, Mr James Mylne at the Abbey Church, Mr Patrick Maxwell at Kilbarchan, *Miniſters*; Thomas King, Eſq; younger of Drums, Mr Robert Barclay, late one of the Bailies of Paiſley, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Hamilton*, Mr John Riſk at Dalſerf, Mr Robert Claſon at Dalziel, Mr James French at Kilbride, *Miniſters*; Profeſſor George Jardine, Glaſgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lanark*, Mr James Hall at Leſmahagow, Mr John Wilſon at Leſmahagow, *Miniſters*; James Millar, Eſq; of Halhill, Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Glaſgow*, Dr William Porteous at Glaſgow, Mr John Lockhart at Glaſgow, Mr James Lapſlie at Campſie, Mr Adam Forman at Carmunnock, *Miniſters*; Sir John Stirling of Glorat, Bart. Mr Andrew Paton, merchant in Glaſgow, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Glaſgow*, Archibald Campbell, Eſq; Advocate, younger of Clathick:—From the *Univerſity* of *Glaſgow*, Profeſſor John Young:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dumbarton*, Mr James Couper at Badernock, Mr Gavin Gibb at Strathblane, Mr James Jeffrey at Balfron, *Miniſters*; The Right Honourable Lord Preſident, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dumbarton*, Archibald Campbell, Eſq; younger of Succoth, Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunoon*, Mr Dugald Macdougal at Lochgoilhead, Mr Hugh Mactaviſh at Inverchaolan, *Miniſters*; John Lamont of Lamont, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Rothſay*, William Macleod Bannatyne, Eſq; of Kames:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kintyre*, Dr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr William Smith at Gigha, Mr Donald Campbell at Southend, *Miniſters*:—Mr Donald Campbell, Preaching Catechiſt at Lochranſay, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Campbelton*, William Campbell of Fairfield, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Burgh* of *Inverary*, Humphry Traford Campbell, Eſq; younger of Aſhniſh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lorn*, Mr John Macfarlane at Kilbrandan, Mr George Campbell at Ardchattan, *Miniſters*; John Campbell, Eſq; of Lochend, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Mull*, Mr Norman Macleod at Morvern, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, *Miniſters*; James Maxwell, Eſq; Chamberlain of Mull, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunkeld*, Mr William Innerarity at Caputh, Mr Archibald Menzies at Dull, Mr Colin Macvean at Kenmore, Mr Alexander

Alexander Niven at Dunkeld, *Miniſters*; David Stewart, Eſq; merchant in Leith, Mr John Macritchie, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Perth*, Mr David Dow *ſenior*, at Dron, Mr William Taylor at Rhynd, Mr William Duncan at Abernethy, Mr John Duff at Kinfauns, *Miniſters*; Mr Alexander Beatſon, writer to the Signet, Bailie James Dickſon, Bookſeller, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Stirling*, Mr James Somerville at Stirling, Mr John Caw at Bothkenner, *Miniſters*; William Murray, Eſq; of Touchadam, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Auchterarder*, Mr John Stevenſon at Blackford, Mr Andrew Gibſon at Muchart, Mr John Brown at Glendovan, *Miniſters*; Patrick Murray younger of Auchtertyre, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunblane*, Mr James Wright at Logie, Mr Alexander Stirling at Tillicoultry, *Miniſters*; Mr Alexander Bonnar, Banker in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr John Scott at Dalgety, Mr William Forfar at Salin, Mr William Bryce at Aberdour, *Miniſters*; Sir Charles Preſton of Valayfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr James Reid at Kinglaſſie, Mr John Uſher at Kinghorn, Mr Andrew Murray at Auchterderran, *Miniſters*; Alexander Park, Eſq; of Lochore, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Bruntiſland*, George Ledingham, Eſq; Provoſt of Bruntiſland:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Cupar*, Mr Andrew Walker at Coleſſie, Mr Andrew Ireland at Monzie, Mr William Gourlay at Fliſk, Mr Peter Barclay at Kettle, *Miniſters*; George Greenlaw, Eſq; of Hilton, Mr John Reid in Dairſie, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *St Andrew's*, Mr James Burn at Forgan, Mr James Nairne at Pittenweem, Mr James Thomſon at Kingſbarns, *Miniſters*; Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Monypenny of Pitmilly, William Dalgleiſh, Eſq; *junior* of Scotſcraig, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *St Andrew's*, Joſeph Maccormick, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Univerſity* of *St Andrew's*, Dr George Hill, Principal of St Mary's College:—From the *Burgh* of *Craill*, Mr Thomas Weir, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Burgh* of *Anſtruther Eaſter*, Mr Thomas Adamſon, late Chaplain to the 4th fencible regiment:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Meigle*, Mr Charles Keay at Cupar Angus, Mr William Haldane at Gleniſla, Mr James Johniton at Blairgowrie, *Miniſters*; Sir William Ramſay of Banff, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Forfar*, Mr William Ramſay at

Cortachy, Mr John Buiſt at Tannadice, *Miniſters*; Profeſſor Henry David Hill, St Andrew's, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Forfar*, Robert Graham of Fintry, Eſq;:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dundee*, Mr James Scott at Auchterhouſe, Mr Thomas Conſtable at Liff, Mr William Johnſton at Monifeith, *Miniſters*; George Paterſon, Eſq; of Caſtlehuntly, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dundee*, James L'Amy, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Aberbrothock*, Mr John Aitken at St Vigeans, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, *Miniſters*; Mr Thomas Milne, merchant, Canongate, *Ruling Elder*: From the *Preſbytery* of *Brechin*, Mr John Biſſet at Brechin, Mr John Pirie at Lochlie, Mr Andrew Hutton, at Edzell, *Miniſters*; James Wauchope, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Brechin*, Adam Gillies, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of Fordoun, Mr Robert Croll at Bervie, Mr James Leſlie at Fordoun, Mr George Cook at Laurencekirk, *Miniſters*; John Burnett, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Aberdeen*, Dr David Cruden at Nigg, Mr Skene Ogilvy at Old Machar, Dr James Fraſer at Dalmoack, Mr Alexander Simpſon at Old Machar, *Miniſters*; William Robertſon, Eſq; Advocate, Procurator for the Church, John Gordon, Eſq; of Craig, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *King's College*, *Aberdeen*, Mr Roderick Macleod Sub-Principal:—From the *Mariſhall College*, *Aberdeen*, Dr Robert Hamilton, Profeſſor of Philoſophy in that Univerſity:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kincardine O'Neal*, Mr Alexander Henderſon at Echt, Mr Alexander Robertſon at Coull, Mr Joſeph Smith at Birſe, *Miniſters*; William Macdonald, Eſq; of Reneaton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Alford*, Mr John Harper at Kildrummy, Mr Benjamin Mercer at Forbes and Kearn, Mr John Gordon at Cabrach, *Miniſters*; James Gordon, younger of Craig, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Ellon*, Mr John Roſe at Udny, Mr George Pirie at Slains, *Miniſters*:—Profeſſor Hugh Macleod, Glaſgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Garioch*, Mr John Shand at Chapel Garioch, Mr Alexander Cuſhnie at Oyne, Mr George Daun at Inch, *Miniſters*; William Gordon, Eſq; younger of Rothny, *Ruling Elder*: From the *Preſbytery of Turriff*, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr Laurence Moyes at Forglen, *Miniſters*; Mr Archibald Milne, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Fordyce*, Mr Walter Chalmers at Deſkford, Mr George Donaldſon at Ruthven,

Ruthven, *Miniſters*; Mr George Andrew, writer, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Banff*, George Cranſtoun, Eſq; of Dewar:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Strathbogie*, Mr James Maclean at Keith, Mr John Findlater at Glaſs, *Miniſters*; Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Aberlour*, Mr Cruickſhank at Rothes, Mr William Spence at Inveraven, *Miniſters*; The Honourable Arthur Duff of Orton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Abernethy*, Mr John Grant at Abernethy, Mr John Gordon at Alvie, *Miniſters*; Dr Gregory Grant, Phyſician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Elgin*, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr Lewis Gordon at Drainie, *Miniſters*; The moſt Noble the Marquis of Huntly, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Forres*, Mr William Stephen at Rafford, Mr Richard Roſe at Dallas, *Miniſters*; George Cumin, Eſq; of Relugas, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Nairn*, Mr John Moriſon at Nairn, Mr John Paterſon at Auldearn, *Miniſters*; Mr Alexander Grant, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Nairn*, Mr Francis Nicol, Preacher of the Goſpel:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Chanonry*, Mr Alexander Wood at Roſemarky, Mr James Smith at Avoch, *Miniſters*; Convener John Lindſay, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Tain*, Mr Andrew Gallie at Kincardine, Mr Thomas Urquhart at Roſekeen, *Miniſters*; Charles Roſs, Eſq of Craigs, Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dingwall*, Mr Angus Bethune at Alneſs, Mr Daniel Roſe at Dingwall, *Miniſters*; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*: And the General Aſſembly added thereto Dr James Macknight, one of the Miniſters of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator: and alſo from the *Burgh* of *Rutherglen*, Mr James Davidſon, writer to the Signet, whoſe commiſſion had been rejected on account of informality; TO BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Aſſembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the ſaid Commiſſioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be Miniſters, to meet and convene within the Aſſembly-houſe at Edinburgh, the firſt day after the diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the ſecond Wedneſday of Auguſt, third Wedneſday of November, and the firſt Wedneſday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they ſhall think fit and convenient,

convenient, with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners to chooſe their own Moderator: And likewiſe, the General Aſſembly fully empowers their ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognoſce and finally determine, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, in every matter referred, or that ſhall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Aſſembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the inſtructions given, or to be given by this Aſſembly; and to advert to the intereſt of the Church on every occaſion, that the Church, and preſent eſtabliſhment thereof, do not ſuffer or ſuſtain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be anſwerable: Provided always, that this general clauſe be not extended to particular affairs or proceſſes before Synods or Preſbyteries, that are not of univerſal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private proceſſes be determined, except at the four ſtated diets; and what ſhall be determined at one diet of the Commiſſion, with relation to private cauſes, ſhall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and ſhall ſtand and continue in force till diſapproved of by the General Aſſembly. And the Aſſembly renews the inſtructions given by the General Aſſembly in the year One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventeen to their Commiſſion, and appoints the ſame to ſtand in full force as inſtructions to the Commiſſioners before named, and to be obſerved by them in all points, as if the ſame were ſpecially here inſerted; and that they inquire into the publiſhing and ſpreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconſiſtent with our *Confeſſion of Faith*; and that the recommenders of ſuch books and pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the ſaid Commiſſion, to anſwer for the ſame. And further, the ſaid Commiſſion is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that ſhall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen ſuch affairs for the next General Aſſembly; and to contribute what they can to the ſuppreſſing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and aſſiſtance to Synods and Preſbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewiſe, to take care that the impreſſions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confeſſion of Faith*, and *Catechiſms*, and ſuch books as are authorized by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worſhip, diſcipline and government thereof,

thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the ſame. And the Commiſſioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correſpondence with the Committee for reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands, for ſuppreſſing Popery and ſuperſtition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in theſe parts, and give aſſiſtance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and ſpeedy redreſs. And the ſaid Commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and conſtitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the ſame; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they ſhall be accountable to, and cenſurable by the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee cauſe. And the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Commiſſioners particularly to obſerve the acts of the General Aſſemblies One thouſand ſeven hundred and twelve, and One thouſand ſeven hundred and nineteen, reſpecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Aſſembly One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-one. And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the ſaid Commiſſion; and abſents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Aſſembly held in the year One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better ſecuring of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commiſſion, the General Aſſembly prohibits the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Preſbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commiſſion; and ſuch of the members of theſe Preſbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Preſbyteries at a greater diſtance, who have four or more members on the Commiſſion, are to take care, that at leaſt two of them attend each diet of the ſame: And the General Aſſembly appoint their Commiſſion, at their firſt meeting, to diſcuſs as many of the cauſes and queſtions relative to the ſettlement of vacant churches, which are or ſhall be referred to them by the Aſſembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided,

that when any Preſbytery or Synod of this Church ſhall decline to comply with the ſentence of the Commiſſion, or to give the ſame a full execution, in that caſe the Commiſſion is hereby prohibited to execute the ſame, by appointing any ſuch correſpondent meeting, as has been ſome time the practice, but ſhall allow the ſame to lie over to the enſuing Aſſembly; to which ſuch Preſbyteries or Synods ſhall be anſwerable for ſuch their conduct, and are hereby appointed to ſend up with their Commiſſioners their reaſons for the ſame. And that in paſſing their ſentences, and in ordering the execution of the ſame, they ſtrictly obſerve the 12th act of the Aſſembly One thouſand ſeven hundred and thirty-ſix.

VII.

COMMISSION to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, and for managing his Majeſty's Royal Bounty for that End.

Edinburgh, May 27. *Seſſ.* 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr JOHN ADAMSON, firſt Miniſter of St Andrew's, their Moderator, all the miniſters who are members of the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Fraſer, Mr Martin Macpherſon, Dr John Macleod, Mr John Macrae, Mr George Macculloch, Mr James Dingwall, Mr Patrick Nicolſon, Mr William Anderſon at Evie, Mr Francis Liddell, Mr George Barry, Mr John Menzies, Mr John Bertram, Mr Bryce Little, Mr Charles Findlater, Dr Alexander Carlyle, Mr Andrew Johnſton, Mr Daniel Macqueen, Mr Selby Ord, Mr George Todd, Dr Thomas Somerville,

Dr

Dr James Ford, Mr Abraham Neviſon, Mr William Singer, Dr Bryce Johnſton, Mr Peter Fergusſon, Mr John Ramſay, Dr James Woodrow, Mr John Foreſt, Mr John Riſk, Mr James Hall, Mr James Lapſlie, Mr James Couper, Mr Dugald Macdougal, Dr John Smith, Mr John Macfarlane, Mr Norman Macleod, Mr William Inverarity, Mr David Dow, Mr James Somerville, Mr John Stevenſon, Mr James Wright, Mr John Scott, Mr James Reid, Mr Andrew Walker, Mr James Nairn, Principal Hill, Mr Charles Keay, Mr John Buiſt, Mr James Scott, Mr William Milligan, Mr John Biſſet, Mr George Cook, Mr Skene Ogilvy, Mr Alexander Henderſon, Mr John Harper, Mr John Roſe, Mr John Shand, Mr Robert Duff, Mr Walter Chalmers, Mr James Maclean, Mr George Cruickſhank, Mr John Grant, Mr William Gordon, Mr William Stephen, Mr John Moriſon, Mr Alexander Wood, Mr Andrew Gallie, Mr Angus Bethune, Mr Daniel Roſe, Dr Macleod at Harris, Mr William Fraſer, Gigha, *Miniſters;* Mr Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Bailie Daniel Miller, Mr William Maclean, Mr Alexander Mackenzie, Mr Alexander Youngſon, Charles Hope, Eſq; Commiſſioner Grieve, Profeſſor Dalzel, Charles Kerr, Eſq; Donald Smith, Eſq; The Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, Convener Braidwood, John Dickſon, Eſq; James Montgomery, Eſq; Mr Thomas Cranſtoun, The Lord Advocate, Mr Mathew Sandilands, Mr Joſeph Norris, Mr James Robertſon, William Tait, Eſq; Mr William Johnſton, Mr Robert Heron, John Buſhby, Eſq; Mr Thomas Adair, Mr Thomas Smith, Lord Glenlee, George Fergusſon, Eſq; David Boyle, Eſq; Archibald Campbell, Eſq; of Clathick, The Right Honourable the Lord Preſident, Archibald Campbell, Eſq; younger of Succoth, William Campbell of Fairfield, Eſq; David Stewart, Eſq; Mr John Macritchie, Mr Alexander Beatſon, Bailie James Dickſon, William Murray, Eſq; Mr Alexander Bonar, William Dalglieſh, Eſq; Joſeph Maccormick, Eſq; Mr Thomas Weir, Sir William Ramſay, Baronet; James L'Amy, Eſq; Mr Thomas Miln, Merchant, Adam Gillies, Eſq; John Burnet, Eſq; The Procurator, Dr Robert Hamilton, Mr William Macdonald, James Gordon, Eſq; younger of Craig, Profeſſor Hugh Macleod, William Gordon, Eſq; Mr Archibald Milne, Mr George Andrew, George Cranſtoun, Eſq; Mr Baron Gordon, Dr Gregory Grant, The Marquis of Huntly, Mr George Cumin, Mr Alexander Grant, Convener John Lindſay, Charles

Charles Roſs, Eſq; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, William Law of Elvingſton, Eſq; Sir John Stirling, *Ruling Elders*; TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Aſſembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, ſuppreſſing Popery and profaneneſs, and for managing the Royal Bounty for theſe ends, according to, and in terms of his Majeſty's grant to this Aſſemly. In proſecution of which purpoſes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechiſts, to go to ſuch places as they ſhall find, upon due information, to be the moſt proper, according to his Majeſty's deſign, expreſſed in His warrant; and, in ſo doing, that they have particular regard to ſuch pariſhes in South Uiſt, Small Iſles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other pariſhes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee ſhall find, by reaſon of the vaſt extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumſtances, to be in the greateſt diſtreſs: And they ſhall take care, that the perſons they employ be certified and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for theſe reſpective offices, of good abilities for the ſame, of a pious life and converſation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majeſty, and of competent ſkill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popiſh controverſies: Such Preachers and Catechiſts being hereby appointed to be ſubject to, and under the inſpection of the Preſbyteries of the bounds to which they are ſent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly obſerved by them. And the Preachers are alſo appointed to catechiſe, and both they and the Catechiſts to inſtruct the people from houſe to houſe, and to viſit the ſick; and in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Chriſtian Proteſtant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them ſuch inſtructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they ſhall judge meet; which inſtructions the Preachers and Catechiſts are hereby ordered to obey. The General Aſſembly do further appoint the ſaid Committee to have a particular regard, in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Aſſembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by

frequent

frequent Aſſemblies; and to take care that Preſbyteries, and others concerned, obſerve the ſame, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Aſſembly ordains the ſeveral Preſbyteries to inſert in their regiſters the Committee's appointments of the deſignations, ſalaries, and ſtations, of the ſeveral Miſſionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they ſhall write about the ſaid Miſſionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning Miſſionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters ſhall be ſigned, at the appointment of the Preſbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Aſſembly does diſcharge any payment to be made of the ſalaries of the Miſſionaries, except upon receipts from the Miſſionaries themſelves, and upon certificates from the Preſbyteries, bearing, that they have ſerved for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechiſt, who receives a ſalary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the pariſhioners, or gentlemen of the diſtrict, ſhall pay a certain ſum in aid of ſuch ſalary, ſhall inſert, in the body of his receipt to the Caſhier, a declaration, that he has received the particular ſum ſpecified; and that the atteſtation of the Preſbytery ſhall, in like manner, bear, that the Catechiſt has received the ſtipulated ſum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being underſtood by this reſolution, that the ſeveral ſtations, with regard to which ſuch conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no ſuch declaration of the Catechiſt, or atteſtation of the Preſbytery, as is now propoſed, is received by the Caſhier, ſhall be afterwards ſupreſſed by the Committee, though the Catechiſt ſhall, notwithſtanding, receive the ſalary for the time he is certified to have perfomed his duty: That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the miniſtry, of the miſſion committed to him, be written on the back of the Preſbytery's certificate, and ſigned by him, as the ground on which the Preſbytery have granted him ſaid certificate. The General Aſſembly do alſo empower the ſaid Committee to apply, for the purpoſes above mentioned, what may remain of the laſt year's Royal Bounty not diſpoſed of, by reaſon of any of the Miſſionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a regiſter of their proceedings, and likewiſe diſtinct books of accounts, how the foreſaid money is beſtowed, which ſhall be patent to

any concerned, who pleaſe to inſpect the ſame. Of the perſons above named, as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be Miniſters. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the ſcheme or eſtabliſhment of Miſſionaries for the enſuing year is to be approved and determined, not leſs than fourteen ſhall be the quorum, whereof nine ſhall be Miniſters; and the ſaid Committee are appointed to have their firſt general meeting at Edinburgh, the firſt lawful day after the adjournment of the firſt of the ſtated diets of the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly; their ſecond meeting (which is for fixing the annual ſcheme) upon the ſecond Thurſday of July, with power to thoſe Members who ſhall then be preſent, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the firſt lawful days after the ſtated meetings of the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, in November and March, within the Aſſembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day ſhall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting ſhall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the ſaid hour; with power to the ſaid Committee to adjourn themſelves to ſuch times and places as they ſhall find moſt needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correſpondence with the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, and the Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and aſſiſtance; and alſo to correſpond with the Synods and Preſbyteries concerned. They are likewiſe inſtructed and empowered, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, to apply to the Government, or any Magiſtrate, for aſſiſtance and ſupport in carrying on the deſign of the Commiſſion now given to them. And the General Aſſembly do appoint Mr William Robertſon, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foreſaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the ſame, as he ſhall be directed and ordered by the foreſaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the ſaid Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the diſtribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the ſame before the Lords Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury, or the Barons of His Majeſty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Aſſembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no perſon once employed and inſert in the ſcheme, ſhall be ſtruck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of

at

at leaſt fourteen, whereof nine to be Miniſters; and in caſe any complaint ſhall be made againſt any of them on the ſcheme, it ſhall not be determined the firſt ordinary meeting that the ſame is offered, but it ſhall lie on the table till another meeting; and, in the mean time, the perſon complained of, and the Preſbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, ſhall be acquainted of ſuch complaint, and thoſe concerned be required to ſend to the ſaid Committee a juſt account of the matter againſt the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly ſcheme of Miſſionaries on the Royal Bounty is ſettled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Preſbyteries concerned, ſuch Preſbyteries ſhall ſend up to the ſaid Committee their anſwer to theſe letters, at fartheſt, with their Commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, if the ſame be not done ſooner; and that the Committee, at their firſt meeting after the General Aſſembly, ſhall endeavour to complete the next year's ſcheme themſelves; and if they cannot complete it, they ſhall name a ſub-committee of their number for that purpoſe, who are to lay their draught thereof before a ſubſequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as ſoon after the riſing of the Aſſembly as poſſible. And empowered the Committee, at their firſt meeting, to reject any petition for a new ſtation, in caſe they ſhall find ſufficient objections againſt it; and that the ſaid Committee, in making up the ſcheme of Miſſionaries, &c. do not exceed the ſum in the grant.

VIII.

VIII.

Edinburgh, May, 29. 1797. *Seſſ. ult.*

THE Report of the Committee appointed to claſs returns to Overtures was called for, given in, and read.—The Aſſembly ordered the Overture reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers to be re-traſmitted; with a renewal of the Recommendation to ſuch Preſbyteries as have ſent no Returns, to ſend them without further delay.

New Overture reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792. *Seſſ.* 8.

THE General Aſſembly having taken under their ſerious conſideration, the great danger to which the intereſts of Religion and of this Church may be expoſed, by licenſing any to preach the Goſpel who are not duly qualified for that important truſt, do hereby enact and ordain, That in all time coming the following regulations ſhall be ſtrictly obſerved:

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student ſhall be entered upon the Roll of any Profeſſor of Divinity, unleſs he ſhall produce to the ſaid Profeſſor a certificate from the Miniſter of the pariſh in which he has his uſual reſidence; or in his abſence, or during a vacancy in ſaid pariſh, from ſome neighbouring Miniſter, bearing, that his character is ſuitable to his views; together with a diploma of Maſter of Arts, or certificates from the ſeveral Profeſſors of Philoſophy, under whom he hath ſtudied, from which it may be clearly aſcertained that, in ſome Univerſity or Univerſities, he hath gone through a full courſe of Philoſophy, in ſome winter-ſeſſions of College

College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. The General Aſſembly do likewiſe hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Profeſſors of Divinity, in the manner preſcribed by this act, ſhall continue to proſecute the ſtudy of Divinity for the term of ſix Seſſions: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall during three Seſſions, his Courſe ſhall be conſidered as completed in four Seſſions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Seſſions, his Courſe ſhall be conſidered as completed in five Seſſions. And the Aſſembly do further ordain, That in each of theſe caſes, Students ſhall be inrolled by the Profeſſors during the ſeveral Seſſions of their reſpective Courſes, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegeſis in Latin, on ſome controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in Engliſh, an Exerciſe and Addition, a Lecture on ſome large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with ſuch other exerciſes as the Profeſſors ſhall think proper to preſcribe. And the Aſſembly further enact and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Profeſſor for his certificates, that he may be propoſed for trials, and that the preliminary ſteps may be taken by the Preſbytery during the currency of the laſt Seſſion of his Courſe, as above deſcribed; with this limitation, that if the ſaid laſt Seſſion is to be claimed as a Seſſion of regular attendance, he ſhall, toward the concluſion thereof, obtain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the ſame to the Preſbytery or Synod.

III. Profeſſors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumſtances may permit, to the conduct of ſuch Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to inſiſt that every Student ſhall deliver his firſt Diſcourſe ſome time during his ſecond Seſſion, at the lateſt, and the remainder of his Diſcourſes at ſuch periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January of the laſt Seſſion of his Courſe.

IV. When a Student is propoſed to any Preſbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Preſbytery ſhall be

alone, and the motion for that purpoſe ſhall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Preſbytery ſhall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been propoſed, to lay before the ſaid meeting the certificate or certificates in favour of the Student, that are ſpecified in the third paragraph of the fifth ſection of this act; to deſire him to attend the ſame; and to inform him, that, previouſly to the meeting, he ought, as far as cirumſtances may permit, to wait on ſuch Miniſters of the Preſbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of converſing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for conſidering the motion is arrived, the Preſbytery ſhall ſtrictly obſerve the following regulations.

1ſt, The Preſbytery ſhall be alone, while they are employed in diſcuſſing the ſeveral preliminaries reſpecting Students who are propoſed for trials.

2d, They ſhall require ſatisfying evidence, that every Student who is propoſed for that purpoſe has completed the twenty-firſt year of his age.

3d, No Student ſhall be admitted to trials, unleſs he produces to the Preſbytery a certificate or certificates from the Profeſſor or Profeſſors of Divinity, under whoſe tuition he hath ſtudied, bearing, that he hath proſecuted his ſtudies, and delivered his Diſcourſes, in the manner preſcribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as conſiſts with the knowledge of the ſaid Profeſſor, or Profeſſors, has been in every reſpect ſuitable to his views in life. And the General Aſſembly do likewiſe hereby enact, That the Preſbytery ſhall record at full length the ſaid certificate, or certificates, in their minutes: And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged ſuch certificate or certificates, ſhall be entitled to obtain extracts of the ſame, if demanded.

4th, No Preſbytery ſhall receive any Student upon trials, unleſs they are ſatisfied that he is of good report; ſound in his principles; pious, ſober, grave, and prudent, in his behaviour; of a peaceable diſpoſition; and well affected to the happy eſtabliſhment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Preſbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of ſuch peculiar importance, they ſhall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unleſs his reſidence, during the

year

year preceding, has been chiefly within their bounds, or he ſhall produce ſufficient teſtimonials from the Preſbytery, in whoſe bounds his reſidence has chiefly been during that term, bearing, that his character is ſuch as is deſcribed in the immediately preceding ſentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in theſe reſpects, to the Preſbytery before whom the propoſal is made, as a proper perſon to be entered upon trials.

5th, The Preſbytery ſhall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unleſs they are ſatisfied that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in thoſe ſeveral branches of knowledge which are neceſſary to enable him to be an uſeful Preacher of the Goſpel. And the General Aſſembly ordain, that the Preſbytery, in order to procure full information in this reſpect, ſhall examine the Student ſtrictly, and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philoſophy and Theology.

6th, If after theſe preliminary ſteps have been taken, the Preſbytery ſhall be of opinion that the Student is duly qualified in theſe ſeveral particulars, they ſhall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the ſeveral Preſbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, two kalendar months at leaſt before the meeting of the ſame, informing them of the Preſbytery's intention to take the Student upon Public Trials, and bearing, that the certificate, or certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of ſuch Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have theſe circular letters written half a-year ſooner than would be otherwiſe competent.

VI. The General Aſſembly do likewiſe hereby enact and declare, That, at the requeſt of the Student, it ſhall be competent to any Preſbytery to transfer the receiving of the Public Trials, or any part thereof, certifying to the Preſbytery to which the transference is to be made, that the various preliminary ſteps have been taken according to the directions of this act; and that ſuch parts of the public and private trials as have been already gone through, have been received with approbation.

VII.

VII. If a Student hath ſtudied, either in whole or in part, in Proteſtant Univerſities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he ſhall, when he is propoſed to any Preſbytery for trials, be required to produce ſatisfying teſtimonials from the Profeſſors of Divinity in ſaid Univerſities; and the time which theſe Profeſſors ſhall certify to have been employed by him in ſtudying Divinity under their tution, ſhall be computed in the ſame manner as if he had proſecuted his ſtudies in any of the Univerſities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in ſuch circumſtances, ſhall be admitted even to thoſe private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, ſooner than ſix kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

VIII. The General Aſſembly ordain, That, if a Preſbytery propoſe to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof ſhall be made at ſome diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which ſhall not be the laſt diet thereof: And the Preſbytery clerk is hereby required to tranſmit to the Synod clerk an extract of the certificate or certificates laid before the Preſbytery in favour of the Student, in order that the ſame may be produced at this diet of the Synod. And it is likewiſe hereby ordained, That at ſome ſubſequent diet of the Synod, particular inquiry ſhall be made, whether any of the Members of the Court has any objection to offer againſt the Student being entered upon Public Trials: And that the Synod then, taking into conſideration the extract produced, and the whole of the caſe, ſhall judge of the expediency of allowing the Preſbytery to admit the Student on trials: Or if, in any caſe, the Preſbytery clerk ſhall fail to tranſmit the extracts of the certificates above mentioned, the Student may produce to the Synod, by himſelf, or by any Member of the Court, the extract of the ſame, which by this act he is entitled to obtain.

IX. If the Synod ſhall allow the Student to be taken upon Public Trials, the Preſbytery ſhall proceed therein with all convenient ſpeed; and the Aſſembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: *1ſt*, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology, and Church Hiſtory; *2d*, A trial on the

the Hebrew and Greek languages; 3*d*, An Exegeſis in Latin on ſome controverted Head in Divinity; 4*th*, A Homily in Engliſh; 5*th*, An Exerciſe and Addition; 6*th*, A Lecture on ſome large portion of Scripture; 7*th*, A popular Sermon; it being underſtood, that if the Preſbytery ſee cauſe, they may examine the Student upon the ſubject of theſe ſeveral Diſcourſes.

X. The Student having gone through the ſeveral trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding ſection of this act, the Preſbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order.

1*ſt*, They ſhall, deliberately and ſeriouſly, take a conjunct view of the whole trials; and if they ſhall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent upon a Preacher of the Goſpel, they ſhall by no means grant him a Licenſe in his preſent circumſtances.

2*d*, If, upon this review of the trials, the Preſbytery are fully ſatisfied therewith, they ſhall record this opinion in their minutes.

3*d*, The Preſbytery ſhall then propoſe to the Student the queſtions that are appointed to be put to all who paſs Trials by act 10th, Aſſembly 1711, and require him to ſubſcribe the *Formula* which is preſcribed by the ſaid act. And the General Aſſembly ſtrictly prohibit all Preſbyteries from licenſing any Student to preach the Goſpel, who ſhall not give explicit and ſatisfying anſwers to theſe queſtions, and ſubſcribe the ſaid *Formula*.

4*th*, The Preſbytery ſhall order the act of Aſſembly 1759, againſt Simoniacal practices, to be read to the Student in their preſence.

Laſtly, The Preſbytery ſhall appoint their Moderator to licenſe the Student to preach the Goſpel, and order their Clerk to furniſh him with an extract of his licenſe.

XI. For the better obſervance of this act, the General Aſſembly ordain, 1*ſt*, That it ſhall be printed among their other printed acts; 2*d*, That it ſhall be printed by itſelf, in ſome convenient form; 3*d*, That a copy of this ſeparate edition ſhall be tranſmitted to each Profeſſor of Divinity in the Univerſities of Scotland; and that the ſaid Profeſſors ſhall read the ſame in their reſpective Halls, once at leaſt during every Seſſion, and at

ſuch times as they have reaſon to expect the attendance of the greateſt number of Students for that Seſſion; and, *laſtly*, That a copy of the ſame edition ſhall likewiſe be tranſmitted to the Clerks of each Synod and Preſbytery, within the bounds of this Church, and that the ſaid Clerks ſhall keep the ſame along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their reſpective Courts, for the uſe of the Members.

IX.

Overture reſpecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1797. *Seſſ. ult.*

THE Committee on the Overture from the Synod of Aberdeen, reſpecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Halls, having maturely deliberated on the ſaid Overture, Report to the Venerable Aſſembly, That, in their opinion, it ought to be expreſſed in the following terms, *viz.* "It is Overtured, that Students "in Divinity, who purpoſe to proſecute their ſtudies "for ſix Seſſions, ſhould be required to give as much "partial attendance, during the currency of thoſe Seſ-"ſions, in the Divinity Halls which they reſpectively "attend, as ſhall, in the whole, amount to ſix months."

The General Aſſembly approved of the above report, and ordered the ſame to be tranſmitted, as an Overture, for the conſideration of Preſbyteries.

X.

X.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, 29th May 1797. *Seſſ. ult.*

THE next GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thurſday the 17th day of May 1798.

Extracted from the Records of the General Aſſembly, by

ANDREW DALZEL, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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ABRIDG-

ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh in the Year 1797, which are not printed at full length.

Thurſday, May 18. 1797. *Seſſ.* 1.

AFTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr WILLIAM GREENFIELD, one of the Miniſters of the City, and Profeſſor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres in the Univerſity, of Edinburgh, Moderator of the laſt General Aſſembly, the Miniſters and Ruling Elders convened in the Aſſembly-houſe in the uſual manner: And after Prayer by the ſaid Dr William Greenfield, the Reverend Dr JOHN ADAMSON, firſt Miniſter of St Andrew's, being unanimouſly choſen Moderator, he, at the Aſſembly's deſire, took the chair.

The KING's Commiſſion to the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN and MELVILLE, to repreſent his Majeſty's Royal Perſon, read, and ordered to be recorded. See Printed Acts, No. I.

The KING's moſt gracious Letter to this Aſſembly, read, and ordered to be recorded. and No. II.

The Commiſſioner's Speech at opening the Aſſembly, and the Moderator's Speech in return thereto.

A Committee named for anſwering the King's moſt gracious Letter.

A Committee named for reviſing the Commiſſions to the Members of this Aſſembly, cenſuring abſents from the diets thereof, naming Miniſters to preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner, and receiving Liſts of Probationers in the ſeveral Preſbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for Overtures named.

A Committee for Bills, References, and Appeals, named.

Adjournment.

Friday, May 19. 1797. *Seſſ.* 2.

Sederunt.

New Commiſſions produced.

A diet ſpent in Prayer.

Act VII. of the Aſſembly 1718, for the better diſpatch of the buſineſs of the Aſſembly, read, and the obſervation thereof enjoined.

Miniſters named to Preach before his Grace the Commiſſioner.

The Committee for reviſing Commiſſions appointed to meet.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 20. 1797. *Seſſ.* 3.

Sederunt.

New Commiſſions produced.

See Printed Acts, No. III.

The draught of the Anſwer to the King's moſt gracious Letter to this Aſſembly being brought in and approved, his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertook to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures was given in and read.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Abernethy, That the Commiſſioner, Dr Gregory Grant, is not deſigned "Ruling Elder." The Aſſembly, in reſpect that the words *Ruling Elder* are found in one part of the Commiſſion, though omitted in the other, did, without a vote, repel the objection.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Brechin, "That the Elder is ſaid to have ſigned the Formula "preſcribed by the 11th Act of Aſſembly 1794, inſtead of "1694." The Aſſembly approve of the Report of the Committee, and delay the conſideration of ſaid Objection till the Commiſſioner appear to claim his ſeat in the Aſſembly.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Auchterarder, "That the Election was held on the 2d of May, "which is within the forty days, and the reſolution to Elect "is on the 4th of April." A Member of the ſaid Preſbytery having ſtated, that the above dates are erroneous, and that it was conſiſtent with his knowledge that the Election was actually made on the firſt Tueſday of April laſt, and that the reſolution to Elect was entered into the Minutes of the ſaid Preſbytery on the firſt Tueſday of February laſt; the Aſſembly agreed, without a vote, to delay the farther conſideration of this caſe till the Record of the Preſbytery of Auchterarder be laid upon the table of the Aſſembly; it being underſtood that the Commiſſioners, named in the ſaid Commiſſion, ſhall not be entitled, in the mean time, to ſit and vote in this Aſſembly.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Burgh of Rutherglen, "That the Election was held on the 6th of April, the "reſolution to Elect being on the 1ſt of April, which is not "ten free days intervening." The Aſſembly approved of the Report of the Committee, and ſuſtained the Objection.

It

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Burgh of Annan, "That John Foot, the perſon ſigning the ſame, is deſigned "*Depute* inſtead of *Clerk*." The Aſſembly delay the conſideration of this objection till the Commiſſioner appear to claim his ſeat in this Aſſembly.

The roll of cauſes tranſmitted by the Committee for Bills was called for, produced, and read.

The Aſſembly agreed to take up the cauſe from the Preſbytery of Penpont on Monday, and the cauſe of Mr Butter of Lethindy on Tueſday.

The Committee for Overtures was appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the ſeveral Members any inſtructions given to them by the reſpective Synods or Preſbyteries, claſs the matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereon to the Aſſembly; and to receive and conſider any accounts that ſhall be given them of the ſtate of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superſtition, and prepare Overtures for preventing and ſuppreſſing thereof.

The Committee for Bills was appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Monday, May 22. 1797. *Seſſ.* 4.

Sederunt.

New Commiſſions produced.

In conſequence of the Aſſembly's judgment of Saturday, reſpecting the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Auchterarder, the Minute-book of the ſaid Preſbytery was produced by the Clerk thereof; and that part of the ſame reſpecting the Election in queſtion was read, from which it appeared that the ſaid Election was made on the 4th of April laſt, and the reſolution to Elect was entered in the Minutes on the 7th of February laſt: The Aſſembly, therefore, ordered the names of the Commiſſioners from the Preſbytery of Auchterarder to be added to the roll of this Aſſembly.

Agreed to take up on Wedneſday the Petition from the Preſbytery of Aberbrothock reſpecting a Chapel of Eaſe.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read.

Report of the Committee for Bills given in, and read.

Agreed to take up the Petition from the Preſbytery of Perth on Wedneſday, and the Petition reſpecting the Norriſton fund on Friday.

Synod Books called for.

A Committee was named to reviſe the actings and proceedings of the Commiſſion of laſt General Aſſembly. And,

A Committee named to reviſe the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by laſt Aſſembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands.

A Committee was named to audite the accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, and other public accounts, conſider

conſider the ſtate of the Church's public money, and prepare Overtures about the ſame.

A reference from the Preſbytery of Penpont, reſpecting a preſentation in favour of Mr John Niviſon, Preacher of the Goſpel to the Pariſh and Church of Penpont, heard: The Aſſembly find, That the Heritors of the Pariſh of Penpont were not entitled to appear before the Preſbytery to object againſt the preſentation; and remit the cauſe to the Preſbytery of Penpont, with an advice to proceed in the ſettlement of Mr Niviſon with all convenient ſpeed, according to the rules of the Church.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Tueſday, May 23. 1797. *Seſſ.* 5.

Sederunt.

New Commiſſions produced.

An Addreſs to his Majeſty on the Marriage of the PRINCESS ROYAL of Great Britain with his Serene Highneſs the Hereditary PRINCE of WIRTEMBERG, unanimouſly agreed to, and a Committee appointed to prepare the ſame.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures called for, given in, and read.

An appeal at the inſtance of Mr Laurence Butter, Miniſter of Lethindy, from a ſentence of the Synod of Perth and Stirling, heard. In reſpect it was judicially ſtated by the Preſbytery of Dunkeld, that the libel with which they reſolved to ſerve Mr Butter did not proceed upon a *fama clamoſa*, the Aſſembly *reverſe* the ſentences of the Preſbytery of Dunkeld, and Synod of Perth and Stirling, appealed from, and remit the cauſe to the Preſbytery of Dunkeld, to proceed in the accuſation of Mr Butter, if they ſhall ſee cauſe, according to the rules of the Church.

Adjournment.

Wedneſday, May 24. 1797. *Seſſ.* 6.

Sederunt.

See Printed Acts, No. IV.

The draught of an Addreſs to his Majeſty on the Marriage of the PRINCESS ROYAL of Great Britain with his Serene Highneſs the Hereditary PRINCE of WIRTEMBERG, was brought in, and approved. His Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertook to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

The Committee on public accounts appointed to meet.

The Aſſembly heard read Minutes of the Preſbytery of Aberbrothock reſpecting a Chapel of Eaſe. The Aſſembly approve of the conduct of the Preſbytery in laying before the Aſſembly their procedure reſpecting the eſtabliſhment of a Chapel of Eaſe in the town of Aberbrothock, in conformity to the order of laſt Aſſembly: And the Aſſembly, after long reaſoning, proceeded to the conſideration of the regulations reſpecting the ſaid Chapel of Eaſe, which, in obedience to that order,

order, were ſubmitted by the ſaid Preſbytery to the judgment of the Aſſembly. The Aſſembly, after the ſaid regulations were read, having heard a Member of the Preſbytery of Aberbrothock in explanation thereof, were ſatisfied of the neceſſity and expediency of the Chapel intended. The regulations, with the objections thereto, were then read over again, one by one, and particularly conſidered by the Aſſembly; and the Aſſembly having made ſome alterations thereon, authoriſe and inſtruct the Preſbytery of Aberbrothock to grant the deſire of the Petition, by erecting the Chapel of Eaſe in queſtion, according to the regulations adopted.

The Petitions from the Preſbytery of Perth delayed till to-morrow.

Adjournment.

Thurſday, May 25. 1797. *Seſſ.* 7.

Sederunt.

The public accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Aſſembly heard a Petition for Mr James Scott, Miniſter of Perth, and others, complaining of a ſentence of the Preſbytery of Perth, refuſing to tranſmit to this Aſſembly the opinion which the ſaid Preſbytery had delivered on the 28th September laſt, concerning the Overture reſpecting Chapels of Eaſe. The Aſſembly diſapproved of the conduct of the Preſbytery of Perth in refuſing to tranſmit ſaid opinion; and appointed the ſaid report to be added to the reports on the ſaid Overture now before the Aſſembly.

The Committee for Overtures appointed to meet.

The Aſſembly agreed to reſolve themſelves into a Committee of the whole Houſe, to conſider the returns of Preſbyteries to the Overture reſpecting Chapels of Eaſe.

Adjournment.

Friday, May 26. 1797. *Seſſ.* 8.

Sederunt.

The report of the Committee of the whole Houſe on the Regulations and Overture reſpecting Chapels of Eaſe, called for, given in, and read. The Aſſembly approve of the report, and re-enact and re-tranſmit the ſaid Regulations and Overture; and ordain that ſeparate copies of the ſame be printed and tranſmitted to the different Preſbyteries, enjoining ſuch Preſbyteries as have ſent no returns to ſend up their opinions to next Aſſembly. From which deciſion ſeveral Members entered their diſſents. See Printed Acts, No. V.

Upon a motion, the Aſſembly unanimouſly recommend to the Preſbyteries of this Church, that when they are to take into conſideration any Overture tranſmitted to them by the General Aſſembly, they ſhall, at a previous ordinary meeting of Preſbytery, appoint the particular day on which they are to conſider ſuch Overture.

The report of the Committee of Overtures given in, and read.

The report of the Truſtees of the fund eſtabliſhed by Act of Parliament for a proviſion to Miniſters Widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings ſince laſt General Aſſembly, and a ſtate of the fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow: And upon a motion, the thanks of the Houſe were given from the Chair to Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, for his fidelity, attention, and prudence, in the management of the fund; and particularly for the accurate and uſeful information contained in his letter lately addreſſed to the contributors of the fund.

A Petition for Mr John Campbell, Miniſter of Kippen, complaining of a ſentence of the Preſbytery of Dunblane, finding that the Elders had no right to vote for a Factor on the Norriſton fund, heard. The Aſſembly reverſed the ſentence of the Preſbytery of Dunblane, and found, that the Commiſſion by the General Aſſembly for the management of the Norriſton fund was given to the Preſbytery of Dunblane, including both Miniſters and Elders.

Agreed to conſider the Overture from the Synod of Aberdeen, and the other Overtures to-morrow.

Upon a motion, the Committee of Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 27. 1797. *Seſſ.* 9.

Sederunt.

The Report of the Committee of Bills called for, given in, and read.

The Report of the Viſitors of the Commiſſion record called for; the Commiſſioners conduct approved of; thanks given to the Moderator of the Commiſſion, and their Book ordered to be atteſted.

The Report of the Committee for naming Members of the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly, and preparing inſtructions to them, given in, and approved. The Aſſembly added thereto Dr James Macknight, one of the Miniſters of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator; and alſo from the Burgh of Rutherglen, Mr James Davidſon, writer to the Signet, whoſe commiſſion had been rejected, on account of informality, by the Aſſembly.

See Printed Acts, No. VI.

The Report of the Viſitors of the Royal Bounty record given in, and read. The conduct of the Managers approved of, and their Book ordered to be atteſted.

——— VII. A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a Commiſſion and inſtructions to them.

The Synod Books of Lothian and Tweeddale, of Fife, and of Glaſgow and Ayr, ordered to be atteſted.

The Report of the Truſtees of the fund eſtaſtliſhed by Act of Parliament for a proviſion to Miniſters Widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the ſeparate regiſter kept for that purpoſe.

The

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed with the former powers; and the Aſſembly added thereto Mr James Lapſlie.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertſon, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonering and diſcharging him and his cautioners of the ſum of L. 553 : 10 : $3\frac{10}{12}$ Sterling, diſburſed by him, and appointing that he give credit in his next account for the ſum of L. 30 : 9 : $2\frac{10}{12}$ Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Murray, Agent for the Church, and exonering and diſcharging him of the ſum of L. 117 : 4 : 3 Sterling, diſburſed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the ſum of L. 4 : 14 : 3 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickſon, Printer for the Church, and ordering payment of the ſum of L. 12 : 1 : 6 Sterling, being the amount thereof.

Act approving of the account of ſtationary articles furniſhed to the clerks by Mr Elphinſton Balfour, and ordering payment of the ſumof L. 13 : 2 : 10, being the amount thereof.

The Report of the Committee on the cauſe relating to the Schoolmaſter of Bothwell, given in by Sir Henry Moncreiff, Convener, and unanimouſly approved of; and the Committee renewed, with the addition of Mr Lapſlie; to report to next Aſſembly: And the Aſſembly recommend it to thoſe Preſbyteries of the Church who have not yet ſubſcribed, to give their aid, along with their Brethren, to a cauſe ſo generally intereſting to the Church and to the country; and to thoſe Preſbyteries who have already ſubſcribed, to collect the amount of their ſubſcriptions, and remit the money to Mr William Murray, Agent for the Church.

A Committee appointed to examine into the particulars of the Overture from the Synod of Aberdeen, reſpecting Students of Divinity; to report to the Aſſembly on Monday.

The Overture from the Synod of Moray, reſpecting the overleaping of Synods as Courts of Review, diſmiſſed as unneceſſary.

Mr Lapſlie withdrew his Overture relative to the Collections for the poor, and the providing of proper places of worſhip for the people of the Eſtabliſhment.

Adjournment.

Monday, May 29. 1797. *Seſſ. ult.*

Sederunt.

A new Commiſſion produced.

The Report of the Committee on new applications was called for, given in, and read.

The Proceſs mentioned in the Petition for Mr Alexander Duff, miniſter of Monymuſk, was remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to be carried on at the public expence.

The Petition for Mr John Findlater, Miniſter at Glaſs, ordered to lie on the table; and, in the mean time, the Aſſembly remitted the ſame to the Procurator, to conſider the caſe therein mentioned, and to report to next Aſſembly.

Liſt of Probationers produced, their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

The Report of the Committee on the Overture from the Synod of Aberdeen, reſpecting Students of Divinity, called for, given in, and read, and approved of. And,

Upon the Report of the Committee appointed to claſs returns to Overtures, the Aſſembly ordered the former Overture, reſpecting the licenſing of Probationers, to be re-tranſmitted; and alſo the Overture from the Synod of Aberdeen, reſpecting Students of Divinity, as amended by the Committee, to be tranſmitted as a ſeparate Overture.

See Printed Acts, No. VIII. —— —— IX.

The Moderator of the laſt Aſſembly having laid before this Aſſembly letters which he had received from Lord Dundas and Lord Armadale, in anſwer to the letter and ſtatement which he was appointed by laſt Aſſembly to tranſmit to the principal Heritors of the different Pariſhes in the Synod of Orkney; the General Aſſembly finding, with much ſatisfaction, that ſome of the grievances within that Synod, formerly complained of, have been redreſſed, appoint the Moderator to write reſpectful letters of thanks to Lord Dundas and Lord Armadale, for the attention which they have paid to the recommendation of laſt Aſſembly. At the ſame time, the General Aſſembly, accounting it their duty to make every competent exertion to obtain full redreſs of the grievances which ſtill exiſt within the ſaid Synod, appoint the Moderator, Dr Greenfield, Dr Hill, Dr Hunter, Dr Grieve, Dr Baird, Mr Finlayſon, Sir Henry Moncrieff, Dr Kemp, Mr Moodie, the Lord Advocate, the Procurator, Profeſſor Dalzel, and Charles Hope, Eſq; as a Committee, Dr Grieve to be Convener, to correſpond with the Heritors or Miniſters, or with the Synod or Preſbyteries of Orkney, on that ſubject; and inſtruct the Procurator to ſelect ſuch caſe or caſes as appear to him of the greateſt importance and urgeney, and to proſecute them without delay at the public expence. And the General Aſſembly, judging it impoſſible for them to enter into the detail of particular grievances, refer to this Committee the ſtate of the Churches and Parochial Schools, laid before them by the Synod of Orkney, the anſwers given in to the Agent for the Church on the part of Lord Dundas, and the obſervations on theſe anſwers by the Members from Orkney, and to report to next Aſſembly.

The Report of the Committee of laſt Aſſembly on the Petition of the Miniſters of Tongue, Duirneſs, and Edrachilles, called for, given in, and read, and unanimouſly approved of.

Reaſons of Diſſent from the judgment of the Aſſembly on the 26th inſtant, on the Regulations and Overture reſpecting Chapels

Chapels of Eaſe, were given in, and read, and ordered to lie *in retentis.*

The Report of the Committee on the Overture from the Preſbytery of Kincardine-o'Neal, anent Proceſſes againſt Clergymen, was given in, and read. The Aſſembly unanimouſly diſmiſſed the Overture.

A Committee named to reviſe the Minutes of the Aſſembly's proceedings at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon ſuch of the Acts of the Aſſembly as are to be ſtanding rules, in order to their being printed.

The Moderator's ſpeech to the Aſſembly, and to his Grace the Commiſſioner.

The Lord High Commiſſioner's ſpeech to the Aſſembly.

Act appointing next diet of Aſſembly.

The Aſſembly concluded with Prayer, ſinging of Pſalms, and pronouncing the Bleſſing.

See Printed Acts, No. X.